

# Representation of the public interests of patients and the local community

## **Council of Governors**

The Council of Governors has a duty to represent the interests of members and the public. Members of the Board meet with the Council of Governors formally at least four times a year at Council of Governors' meetings. The majority of Governors are active within our local area and have both informal and formal connections with third sector and statutory health-related organisations. The Board of Directors routinely engage with the Council of Governors in line with the governors' statutory duties and responsibilities.

## **Greater Manchester Joint Health Scrutiny Committee**

We manage our relationship with the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee via the directorate of strategy and planning. Directors attend meetings of the committees when requested by them to discuss matters related to local NHS policy and planning.

## **Healthwatch Wigan and Leigh**

Arrangements are in place for the receipt of inspection reports from Healthwatch concerning our foundation trust, and Healthwatch is presented annually with a draft of the Foundation Trust's Quality Report for comment prior to the final publication of the report. Where a response is received from Healthwatch, this is included within the final version of the report.

## **Volunteer groups**

We have an active volunteering community and a representative of that group sits on our Council of Governors.

## **Staff networks**

Staff networks are recognised as being crucial to the promotion of the Trust's wider equality and inclusion agenda. Their activities can help open the door to a change in culture and improved staff experience on specific issues relating to each network.

The networks provide members of staff who identify with a protected group or have specific interests with a safe, welcoming and practical platform where exchanging information, generating and sharing views and new ideas can be expressed in an informal environment. The networks also provide peer support, networking opportunities and social activities.

## **Direct patient and public engagement**

The interests of patients and the public are also addressed through the Trust's responses to the national patient and staff surveys, local surveys and internal Trust-wide and specialty specific initiatives related to patient, carer and public engagement and our organisational development.

## **The Board's approach to addressing the interface between governors and local consultative forums**

The feedback from a range of sources including the governors and other groups and organisations is initially first considered at one or more of the committees of the Board of Directors. Reports are then presented for consideration or action to the Board of Directors' open meetings. The meetings are held in public and all are welcome to attend.